

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 541

By Crowe

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Everett Lee Barnett of
Unicoi County.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that this General Assembly should pause to honor those exemplary Tennesseans who have dedicated themselves to improving the quality of life for their fellow citizens; and

WHEREAS, Everett Lee Barnett is one such outstanding gentleman whose bountiful life has made his family and his community of Erwin, Tennessee deservedly proud; and

WHEREAS, a deacon, a coach, and a friend, Everett Barnett is a boundless source of inspiration and encouragement to all those fortunate enough to know him; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Barnett, better known to many as "Ev", seems to have always been involved in coaching; in the 1970s and early 1980s, he coached boys and older men in basketball at Central Baptist and assembled a softball team to compete in tournaments and league play; besides fielding some very good teams, he never failed to inspire those who played for him; and

WHEREAS, winning is important to Ev Barnett, not simply because he does not like losing, but rather because he believes in giving one hundred ten percent to all that he does; confined to a wheelchair in his own life, he strives to help people understand why they should neither lower nor limit their expectations of people living with physical challenges; and

WHEREAS, over the last six years, Mr. Barnett has coached both elementary and high school-aged children at the YMCA and led them to remarkable success in five of the last six seasons; and

WHEREAS, Everett Barnett's coaching style is rooted in respect and guided by encouragement; attacking a young player personally is always unacceptable to Mr. Barnett, yet he will not hesitate to correct a bad play with an attention-getting growl; and

WHEREAS, Ev Barnett also dedicates his time and talents to the supervision of weightlifting enthusiasts at the local YMCA by instructing younger members on proper technique and safety, while providing much welcomed encouragement to the more mature members; and

WHEREAS, a great source of spiritual strength to all who know him, Mr. Barnett is an active and devout member of his church, which he has served faithfully for many years as a deacon; and

WHEREAS, not afraid to speak his mind, Everett Barnett elicits lively debates on the subjects of politics, religion, and community affairs when he makes his frequent appearances at the Clinchfield Drug Store; indeed, many accomplished politicians, lawyers, and business persons have lost the battle of wits and barbs to Ev Barnett and remain the better for it; and

WHEREAS, Everett Barnett exemplifies the spirit and allegiance to family and community that are characteristic of a true Tennessean; and

WHEREAS, throughout his remarkable life, Mr. Barnett has demonstrated an extraordinary ability to motivate others to reach their potential, winning the unbridled respect and admiration of his community; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Everett Lee Barnett for his bountiful life of purpose and commitment and extend to him our best wishes for every continued success in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.